



Vimercate, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2005

Alfa Gomma S.p.A. , the Holding company of our Group, effective as of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2005 has acquired the Dunlop Hiflex Group.

The English based Dunlop Hiflex Group has a significant distribution network in most northern European countries. Alfa Gomma and Dunlop Hiflex have a long history of co-operation, dating back over thirty years and share many aspects of common heritage. This transaction brings together two leading brands and further develops a world-leading organisation in the design, manufacture, supply and distribution of hydraulic hose, hydraulic fittings and industrial hose.

Alfa Gomma intends to operate the Dunlop Hiflex Group as a separate division making the best use of its strong brand name in world markets offering a distinct Dunlop Hiflex product range. The Alfa Gomma and Dunlop Hiflex divisions will however use their combined expertise in the areas of product design and manufacturing to strengthen their sales offering.

“The deal represents a cornerstone in the development of both Alfa Gomma and Dunlop Hiflex” said Enrico Gennasio, CEO of Alfa Gomma S.p.A. “A well-known and valued brand, together with a strong distribution network, is a perfect fit to Alfa Gomma core activity. I’m also sure that Dunlop Hiflex will benefit from being once again part of an important industrial group, focused on the manufacturing of the same range of products that Dunlop Hiflex has successfully offered to the market for many years.”

For additional information about the Alfa Gomma Group please visit: [www.alfagomma.com](http://www.alfagomma.com)

For additional information about the Dunlop Hiflex Group please visit: [www.dunlophiflex.com](http://www.dunlophiflex.com)